

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00
XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SOE-01 STR-05
DOE-12 /118 W
-----113623 210950Z /10

R 210814Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3738

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 19564

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: REGIONAL REACTION TO USHIBA MISSION

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TOKYO INFO OSAKA NAHA SAPPORO FM FUKUOKA
DEC 19 REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE
FUKUOKA 0288

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: REGIONAL REACTION TO USHIBA MISSION

REF: TOKYO 19217

1. EXTENSIVE RECENT DISCUSSIONS CONSULATE HAS HELD WITH
REGIONAL MEDIA, FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL CONTACTS ON SUBJECT
OF CURRENT BILATERAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS HAVE LEFT IMPRESSION
THAT IN KYUSHU USHIBA MISSION IS SEEN AS ONLY VERY TEMPORARY
AND PERHAPS EVEN MINOR PART OF WHAT WILL BE LONG DIALOGUE.

2. LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON JAPAN'S TRADE AND CURRENT ACCOUNT
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SURPLUSES AND U.S. DEFICITS SEEMS RATHER NARROW AND PROVINCIAL.
MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS, EVEN RELATIVELY SOPHISTICATED SENIOR
FIGURES IN FINANCIAL WORLD, DISINCLINED TO SEE JAPAN'S
SURPLUSES AS MAIN PROBLEM; INSTEAD TURN BACK CRITICISM BY
CITING U.S. OIL IMPORTS AS PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTION TO PROBLEM FOR
WHICH JAPAN ASKED TO TAKE DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF BLAME,
VIEW IS WIDESPREAD AMONG REGIONAL JOURNALISTS THAT REAL COURSE

OF U.S. PROBLEM IS UNPRECEDENTED EFFORT BY U.S. TO ACCUMULATE MASSIVE PETROLEUM INVENTORY AS HEDGE AGAINST EXPECTED FAILURE OF MID-EAST PEACE TALKS AND POSSIBLE OIL BOYCOTT RIPOSTE OF ARABS. THOUGH THIS FANCIFUL, CONSPIRATORIAL THEORY MAY NOT BE SHARED BY MORE SENIOR BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL LEADERS, THEY TOO ADVANCE VIEW THAT U.S. HAS NOT DONE ENOUGH TO EXPLAIN REASON FOR ITS UNPRECEDENTEDLY LARGE IMPORTS OF PETROLEUM THIS YEAR.

3. MUCH OF LOCAL COMMENTARY ON CURRENT BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUE REFLECTS TOKYO MEDIA COVERAGE, BUT THROUGH PRISM OF CONSERVATIVE KYUSHU INTERESTS, THERE IS LITTLE OR NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT JAPAN HAS BECOME ECONOMIC GREAT POWER AND MUST PLAY LEADING ROLE IN HELPING TO MODERATE EFFECTS OF LARGE SWINGS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND PAYMENTS PATTERNS. IN FACT, REGIONAL EDITORIAL AND NEWS ANALYSIS SEEMS TO PUT EMPHASIS ON U.S. LIVING UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES TO DEFEND VALUE OF DOLLAR AND MINIMIZE SHOCK TO INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM CAUSED BY DOLLAR'S DOWNWARD FLOAT. MUCH OF COMMENTARY HAS CONTINUED TO HOLD SECRETARY OF TREASURY TRIGGERED DOLLAR'S SLIDE. MEDIA CALLS UPON U.S. TO DEFEND DOLLAR BY REDUCING ITS ENERGY IMPORTS INVARIARLY FAIL TO ADD THAT PERHAPS U.S. COULD MORE EASILY DO WITHOUT JAPANESE TV SETS AND CUT-RATE STEEL THAN ENERGY AND THEREFORE SUDDEN SERIOUS EFFORT TO DEFEND VALUE OF DOLLAR BY REDUCING U.S. DEFICIT COULD HURT JAPANESE EXPORTS. LIKEWISE, CONTINUING CHARACTERIZATIONS OF SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AS AUTHOR OF YEN'S RISE ALWAYS FAIL TO NOTE THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPOSEDLY OFFENDNG REMARKS MADE WEEKS AGO AND THEREFORE SHOULD HAVE LITTLE CONNECTION TO CONTINUED RISING TREND OF YEN. MEDIA ALSO LASH OUT AT QTE INTERNATIONAL SPECULATORS UNQTE AS OTHER MAIN BUGREAR RESPONSIBLE FOR YEN'S RISE. GRUDGINGLY, AND THEN ONLY RARELY, IS CREDIT FOR ACTIVITIES OF SPECULATORS GIVEN TO HUGE JAPANESE SURPLUS ON CURRENT ACCOUNT.

4. MEDIA ALSO USE REPORTING TECHNIQUE OF ATTRIBUTING ALL ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF REDUCTION OF JAPAN'S SURPLUS TO EUROPEAN OR AMERICAN SPOKESMEN, SO GENERAL EFFECT IN PRINT TENDS TO BE DISCOUNTED BY JAPANESE READERS. WHEN EDITORIALS AND NEWS ANALYSES DO TAKE JAPANESE TO TASK FOR AT LEAST HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOME OF PROBLEM, PRESCRIPTION IS USUALLY HOPEFLESSLY VAGUE, AS IN PERFORATION IN NISHI NIHON SHINBUN'S (NNS) DEC 17 EDITORIAL ENTITLED QTE WHAT DID USHIBA'S VISIT TO USA LEAVE UNQTE, WHICH CONCLUDED QTE MAIN LESSON AND CHALLENGE WE RECEIVED FROM RECENT US-JAPAN CONSULTATION IS THAT JAPAN'S POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCLES SHOULD IMPROVE CONSCIOUSNESS AND ACTIVITIES NOT SIMPLY BLAMING AMERICAN DEMANDS UNQTE.

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USIA-15 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 TRSE-00
XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-05 DOE-12
SOE-01 /118 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION TOKYO INFO OSAKA NAHA SAPPORO FM FUKUOKA
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

5. IT IS ONLY FAIR TO NOTE THAT LOCAL MEDIA AND FINANCIAL
CIRCLES ARE AS DIVIDED AS CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN COMING UP WITH
INDUSTRIES THAT JAPAN CAN AFFORD TO SACRIFICE. EASTERN AND
SOUTHERN PREFECTURES OF KYUSHU AND THEIR COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL
LEADERS ARE ADAMANT ABOUT MAINTAINING AND REINFORCING PROTECTION
OF LOCAL BEEF AND MIKAN INTERESTS FROM IMPORTATION OF U.S. ORGANGES
AND CATTLE. ON OTHER HAND, WESTERN AND NORTHERN PREFECTURES JUST
AS ADAMANT ABOUT ABSOLUTE NECESSITY TO PROTECT AND REINFORCE
EXPORTABILITY OF JAPANESE SHIPBUILDING, STEEL AND OTHER HEAVY
INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS.

6. WHEN MEDIA GET AROUND TO CONCRETE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR ACTION,
RESULTS CAN OFTEN BE EASCINATING, AS IN EARLIER PARAGRAPH OF NNS
EDITORIAL CITED ABOVE. QTE IN THE AREA OF RESPONSES TO
INTERNATIONAL (CRITICISM) THERE ARE A NUMBER OF POINTS FOR SELF-
CRITICISM BY JAPAN. IN AN EMERGENCY JAPAN SENDS A SPECIAL ENVOY,
BUT ITS ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY IN NORMAL TIMES HAS BEEN POOR. THUS,
IN THE AMRRERICAN CONSULATS AND AMERICAN CENTERS THROUGHOUT JAPAN

INCLUDING FUKUOKA, THE US INVITES SPEAKERS FROM AMONG REPRESENTATIVES

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OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND ACADEMIC CIRCLES TO AID IN
JAPANESE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN VIEWPOINT.

HOW MUCH OF SUCH EFFORTS HAS JAPAN MADE TOWARD THE USA, MIDDLE
EAST AND EC? UNQTE. SIGNED PABST UNQUOTE
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE VISITS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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